(c) and (d) Whenever a report is received, action is taken under Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, to draw samples for analysis and in suitable cases necessary action for cancellation of licence or for prosecution is taken under Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985/Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Besides, samples are also drawn on regular and periodic basis for testing. There are 44 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories for undertaking chemical analysis of fertilizers with an annual analysing capacity of about 80.000 samples.

**Public Distribution System in Delhi**

1344. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH MANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item under the caption "Capital's PDS on the verge of collapse" in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 18th July, 1988;

(b) if so, whether due to meagre returns the shop owners of the fair price, the owners are not interested to open FPS;

(c) whether to encourage the PDS, Government intends to give more incentives to the FPS owners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Increase in the profit margins to the fair price shops is considered from time to time by Delhi Administration. The Administration has intimated that the profit margins of fair price shop owners has been increased recently in respect of imported edible oils and levy sugar.

**Number of Bonded Labourers in the states**

1345. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the *Hindustan Times* dated 19th July, 1988 under the caption "2 lakh bonded labourers in 12 States";

(b) whether the 12 State Governments have identified the number of bonded labourers in their respective States;

(c) whether the State Governments have submitted their reports to the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The indentification and rehabilitation of bonded labour is monitored by the Central Government on a regular basis under the 20-Point Programme. As per the reports received from the State Governments, 2,35,670 bonded labour have been identified in 12 States upto 31.3.1988. The responsibility for identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour lies with the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has sponsored a scheme of financial assistance to the State Governments to facilitate and speed up the rehabilitation process of released bonded labour. State Governments have also been advised to extend the benefits under the anti-poverty programmes to the released bonded labour. Government has also launched a new scheme on 30th October 1987 for involvement of voluntary agencies in the task of identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour.

**Supply of sprinkler under scheme of NABARD**

1346. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high power Committee under his Ministry has approved the rate and specifications of sprinkler sets to supply to farmers under subsidy linked loaning scheme of the NABARD;

(b) if so, the details of the sprinkler sets manufacturing firms approved by Government;

(c) whether farmers are being cheated in the supply of inferior quality of sprinkler sets; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Violation of laws on equal wages by Government**

1347. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in the Hindu dated the 6th July, 1988 entitled Balatant Violation of law on equal wages by Government; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the National Commission on Self-Employed Women and women in the Informal Sector which has been referred to in the newspaper article, has been very recently submitted and is under examination of the Goevrnment.

**Non-payment of O.T.A./Compensatory Allowances on the Death of Dignitaries to the employees of Delhi Central Electrical Division of C.P.W.D.**

1348. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the payment of OTA/Compensatory allowances on the death of Indian and foreign high dignitaries during the period 86-87 declared under the Negotiable Instrument Act as public holidays to the Employees of Delhi Central Electrical Division No. 7 East Block, Rama Krishna Puram, New Delhi have not been paid so far;

(b) if so what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government received any representation in this regard, if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Rise in the prices of pulses**

1349. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an unprecedented rise in the prices of pulses in the recent past;

(b) whether Government have looked into the causes for such price rise if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to effect control/reduction in the price of Pulses to avoid hardshis to the common man?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The prices of the pulses are largely determined by their demand and supply. Thus the prices of pulses vary from place to place. Due to drought conditions in the country during the last year, prices of pulses are ruling high.

(c) With a view to containing the prices of pulses the following measures have been taken:

(i) Pulses have been put under the Open General Licence (OGL).

(ii) National level Agencies, viz. State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)